

FROM TALLAHASSEE.

Some Interesting Reading About the State Capital and Legislature.

Tallahassee, May 11.—The county superintendents of public instruction of the several counties assembled at Tallahassee last week in force and went home supremely happy, the constitution amendment to raise the millage limit from 5 to 7 mills having passed, both houses during the week. The amendment will now be submitted to the people at the next general election for ratification or rejection.

Very few bills passed both houses last week and became laws by the signature of the governor.

All or most of the important bills are still in the hands of the committees or have passed but one house or the other.

The calendars of both houses show considerable congestion, over 700 bills have been introduced in both houses, of which the House has 430 to its credit. The total number of bills in both houses at the last session was 778; it will be seen what an enormous amount of labor is still before the Legislature. It is safe to say that the sum total will reach between 900 to 1,000 for the present session.

All or nearly all purely local bills have been disposed of, with the exception of the Jacksonville charter bill, which will be a stumbling block for weeks to come; each of the Duval delegation has his own bill, with no likelihood of an agreement, and the opinion prevails that no change of charter for Jacksonville unless very strong pressure is brought to bear.

A bill for a geological survey of the state of Florida, passed the Senate but failed in the House.

A joint resolution in reference to Judge Charles Swayne of the northern district of Florida, has passed both houses. Judge Swayne is severely criticised and it will no doubt result in his removal from the bench.

An amendment to lengthen the term of tax assessor, tax collector and treasurer for the several counties has passed both houses and awaits the vote of the people at the next election.

Senate Bill No. 264, to amend the charter of the city of DeLand, is in second reading in both houses with a favorable report.

Prominent Volusia county people at the capital last week were: Rev. T. J. Sparkman, Bert Fish, O. J. Hill, A. T. Patillo and Charles Dougherty.

Living in Glass Houses.

A friend sends THE NEWS the following clipping about students of a Christian church and a Baptist church school, with the suggestion that the Social Purity Society of DeLand take up the matter and see if they cannot clear things up better in Missouri than they have in DeLand. The clipping follows:

COLLEGE GIRLS UNABLE TO CLIMB ROPE LADDER.
Had Gone Riding at Night with Male Students, but Could Not Secretly Regain Rooms.

Liberty Mo., April 27.—The president of the Liberty Ladies' College, a Christian church school, announced today that seven students had been suspended indefinitely. Simultaneously, the president of William Jewell College, the leading Baptist institution of the West, announced that six young men students had been suspended, three until the end of the term, and three indefinitely.

Shortly after the "lights out" bell sounded in the ladies' college one night last week a rope ladder, which had been smuggled into one of the rooms, was hung out of a window and down it six girls went, to be met by six William Jewell students. After a "buggy ride," which continued until after midnight, the girls sought to return to their rooms by the same rope ladder, but were unable to do so. Forced to ring the bell they were called upon for an explanation and told the whole story, even to the name of the seventh young woman who pulled up the ladder after the descent of the others and hung it out for their return.



Mr. J. J. Hill is economizing on the Great Northern railway by the use of three sided railway ties. Each tie is twelve inches wide instead of eight, thus covering four inches more space, and its more economical cutting saves ten feet, or 1,440 cubic inches, of lumber.

If from the beginning of American railroading three cornered ties had been used, the lumber saved up to date would have been about 2,447,928,400 cubic feet. This lumber, the saving alone, if stacked up solid on the side of Madison Square Garden would, says the New York World, tower nearly four miles into the air, overtopping the highest mountain in the United States. It would plank over all Rhode Island an inch and a half thick. It would cover every house, street, lot, lake, swamp, park and vacant field in the Greater New York with a six inch coat of solid lumber. It would equal the timber product of 16,000,000 of the best pine trees that ever grew in the eastern states.

THE OUTCOME OF A GAME

(Original.)

Otis Lawrence and I were chums before his marriage and continued to be chums after his marriage, although I confess I was greatly disappointed that Grace Horton married him instead of me. That his marriage did not break off our intimacy was due entirely to Otis, who was ignorant of my attachment for the woman he married, and I could not turn away his invitations to be a frequent visitor to his house. Day by day I grew irritated against him.

Otis had one weakness—a passion for gambling; not that he visited the regular gambling houses, for he did not, but he played at home. He would gather a party of friends nearly every night, and the play was always very high. This his wife did not know. She was aware that he played for money, but supposed the amounts were trifling. Otis gradually collected all sorts of implements for gambling.

One Saturday afternoon in June as I was about to leave my office for a half holiday Otis dropped in and told me that he had bought a roulette table. Would I go with him and see the ball spin? He insisted, I yielded.

On reaching his house we went to what he called the smoking room, divested ourselves of our coats and vests, lighted cigars and sat down at the roulette table. There is something fascinating in watching the little ball spin rapidly around for awhile, then begin to coquette with the different pockets, rolling toward one, striking a point and nearly being knocked into another, poised for a moment on the edge of a third, never settling into its choice till the excitement of the watchers has reached fever heat. Otis was banker. He won all the money I had about me; then I began to give him due bills. About 4 o'clock I added these amounts and found that I was bankrupt.

It was plain to me that Otis had grown frightened at my large bets. He had a wife and a child, and if instead of the bank having broken me I had broken the bank it would have been terrible. The fires of hell were burning within me. This man had deprived me of the woman upon whom I had set my heart, and now he had taken every dollar I possessed. As a drowning man will catch at a straw I ran my hands through my pockets and felt a coin the size of a half dollar. I drew it from its place and in doing so dropped it, and it rolled under a lounge. I arose to get it.

"Never mind," said Otis. "What was it?"
"Fifty cents, I believe."
"Very well; it's safe. Make your bet."

I bet on the number giving the highest returns. The ball spun around, dallied here and there, then dropped into my number. From this I had an astonishing run of luck till I had won back \$100 of my losses. I played on the luck continuing with me. Dinner was announced, but we paid no attention to it. At 11 o'clock I had regained all I had lost besides a considerable sum from Otis. He figured his losses and in a trembling voice announced that they were \$6,000, or nearly \$1,000 more than he could possibly pay. I had broken the bank.

The revenge I had coveted now that it was attained suddenly turned bitter. After the first exciting moment of realization that I had saved what I possessed, won all Otis had and placed him in the position I was in when I found the half dollar a revolution came over me. He was my friend and had never injured me. I had loved the girl who was his wife, and his child was devoted to me. Nevertheless I had ruined him and ruined his wife and child.

"Otis," I said, "when I had lost all this afternoon I found a half dollar, with which I retrieved everything and broke your bank. It rolled under that lounge. Go and find it and see what you can do with it. My opinion is that there's rare luck in it."

He went to the lounge, got down on the floor, found the piece and brought it to the table. I noticed a curious expression on his face and turned my eyes from it to the coin. It had rather the look of german silver than the true white metal.

"That's no half dollar," said Otis. "It's a check for something."

It was a check for an umbrella that I had carried for a week. I had regained my fortune and won Otis' fortune on a valueless bit of metal. We stood looking at each other while the truth was breaking over us. His fortune was his own, and he was entitled to mine.

The remembrance of that moment always gives me great satisfaction. Instead of experiencing a disappointment I felt a pleasure. I preferred that Otis should possess the money. His wife and child would share it with him, and as for me, I was young and would double my efforts to retrieve my losses.

There was a grate in the room, and Otis, without speaking, gathering the due bills, both his own and mine, took them there; then, striking a match, he lighted them. When they were burned, he came to me with outstretched hand, saying:

"The game's a draw, old man, and it's the last game that will ever be played in this house and the last time I'll ever play for money."

Breaking up his gambling utensils, he stuffed them in the grate, and while they were burning we went downstairs to a good supper.

I tried hard to induce Otis to take the money that was due him, but failed. Years afterward I managed to enable him to make a similar amount in a business deal, but at that time I was rich.

Our friendship today is like steel.

WESTCOTT ATWELL.

Scandal In High Life

(Original.)

Mrs. Vanderdecker, whose residence is in the plaza, New York, relict of Varick Vanderdecker, who began life making a patent medicine and ended a director of half a dozen banks, not being able to use her eyes has an English maid who, while dressing her mistress' hair, is expected to inform her of the social news—in other words, the gossip of the day. This was the record for one day last week.

"Oh, ma'am, there's been such a scandal! All society is talkin' about it."

"Well, begin at the beginning. I always like to hear the tridles about these affairs. If not, I don't half enjoy the scandal itself."

"Yes, m'm. I'll begin at the beginning. It was only a few days ago that young Mrs. Bonner—er who been under five and twenty—'as 'er second 'usband—the first not bein' dead neither—stepped into Sherry's for a bite of luncheon. She'd eaten a lobster a la Newburg and had ordered a cream merengue when a gentleman come in and took a seat at a table near by. Suddenly their eyes met. Who should he be but Mr. Robinson, 'er former 'usband, dressed in the height of London fashion—for 'e 'ad lived abroad lever since the divorce—with a button-hole in his coat and lookin' for all the world 'ansomer than ever—and when he went abroad he was said to be the 'ansomerest man in New York. You know, ma'am, Mr. Bonner is a 'significant lookin' man, with no great money neither, and heverbody wondered when Mr. Robinson's wife give up her 'usband for such a person."

"You don't look a day older," said Mr. Robinson, "than you did three years ago when my heart was lacerated at givin' you up."

"Don't I? said his wife. "No more do you, Albert. You was always my fancy for looks."

"Come, come," interrupted the listener. "You can't put in the talk of ladies and gentlemen. Get on with the story."

"Yes, m'm. Well, as I was sayin', m'm, the compliments begun to fly between 'em, besides some explanations as 'adn't come out when they was a separatim', and they sat at the table for 'arf the afternoon. Mr. Robinson ordered a bottle of champagne, knowin' that Mrs. Bonner was very fond of it, and they drank to the 'appy days when they was a-courtin' and before the lady got to firtin' first with one and after ward with another till she got down to Bonner. Then Robinson said as 'ow 'e'd draw the line at Bonner, and there was a quarrel as wasn't made up."

"You used to be fond of curacao to wind up with, dear—I beg pardon, Mrs. Bonner—says Mr. Robinson. 'Won't you 'ave one?"

"The very thing," says Mrs. Bonner. "Ow you always did know my taste. There I was just goin' to call you by the old pet name—'Birdie.'"

"This is the 'appiest moment I 'ave 'ad in three years," says Mr. Robinson.

"I'm 'raid I made a mistake, Albert. You was a model 'usband, and I tried you very 'ard. Bonner can't 'elp me with my costumes as you could. 'E 'asn't the artistic eye you 'ave."

"They clasped 'ands under the table, and Mrs. Bonner's eyes was wet."

"That's right, Simmons," remarked Mrs. Vanderdecker. "Stick to what they did, not what they said. You spoil the story with their talk."

"Well, m'm, Mrs. Bonner asked 'im 'ow long 'e was goin' to be in America, and 'e said as 'ow 'e was goin' to sail back in two days, as 'e 'ad an invitation to visit a noble lord at 'is country 'ouse, and 'e wouldn't do for 'im to be away at the time as 'is social position in Lummox depended upon 'is bein' there. Then Mrs. Bonner cried."

"Simmons," said the mistress, "I believe you're making this all up."

"No'm, I habn't. I got it from Mrs. Bonner's maid, who's a friend of mine."

"Good gracious!" exclaimed Mrs. Vanderdecker. "How servants do repeat things!"

"Then Mr. Robinson asked 'is wife to get a divorce and marry 'im, and she said she would, but when they come to think as 'ow she'd 'ave to live a year in Dakota she couldn't bring herself to take the trouble, specially as she'd never been a day out of New York society in 'er life. Wasn't it cruel, m'm, that the poor things 'ad to be separated just because the law's so delayin'?"

"Mr. Robinson, 'e called a close carriage, and the two went drivin' through the park with the winder shades pulled down. Wasn't it awful, m'm?"

"That evenin' when Mr. Bonner went 'ome for dinner 'is wife wasn't there, and when she did come she was very much flustered. 'E knew by her looks she'd been doin' something wrong, and 'e spoke to 'er 'arsh like. She, bein' tired of 'im and rattled over 'avin' to part with 'er 'usband—I mean her real 'usband—on account of 'im, picked up a silver platter from the buffet and threw it at 'im. Then there was trouble in the family and no mistake."

"Which family?" asked Mrs. Vanderdecker.

"Both of 'em."

"Well?"

"That's the end of the story so far as I got it from the servants' 'all, but what's come out in the paper this mornin' tells 'ow it ended."

"Read it."

"Scandal in 'igh life. The outgoin' Cunard steamer yesterday took the wife of Rochester Bonner, who eloped with Albert Robinson. Mrs. Bonner was formerly the wife of Robinson and was divorced from him three years ago to marry Mr. Bonner. Society is greatly shocked."

ANNE MAUD DAVEY.

BEFORE THE FLOP

One of the Record's Many Articles of Last Fall on University Trouble.

The following article is taken verbatim from the September 20th issue of the DeLand Record, which is now devoting nearly all its space every week to a vilification of the same president and trustees so highly commended in September. An intelligent public is capable of judging the "reasons" for this flop. The heading and article follow, in full:

UNANIMOUSLY VINDICATED.

The University Rumors Found to Be False in Every Particular.

"At the meeting of the Board of Trustees here Thursday evening and all day Friday, the difficulty at the University was patiently and exhaustively investigated and resulted in a complete vindication of Dr. Forbes. There were twenty out of twenty-three of the Trustees actually present, and the Board has in its number some of the most distinguished men in this and other states."

The decision of the Board is received with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction by the people of DeLand, and the whole matter will be finally and forever dropped.

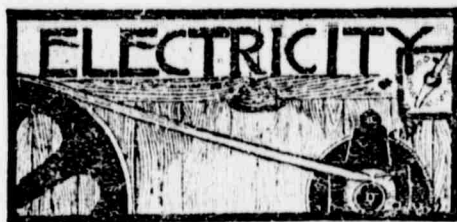
While the rumors were current the confidence and the high esteem held, on the part of the DeLand people, in Dr. Forbes were never shaken; they loyally and unflinchingly stood by a man whose life had always been ideal and an admirable example for a person holding the high position that he does. This result of the investigation of the rumors, as unanimous, as absolute, as positive as it was, was no surprise to the people of DeLand. With almost an all night's session and all the next day until 6 o'clock without intermission, this eminent body of men who came here, at the request of Dr. Forbes, to investigate these rumors, went into every detail, made a most searching investigation, and found not one scintilla of evidence to even base a charge upon, and this verdict, the verdict of some of the most eminent men of this country, is accepted as absolute and final.

The DeLand people heartily congratulate Dr. Forbes on this unanimous vindication and endorsement, for as long as the rumors continued there went with them a reflection upon himself, upon the position he occupies in the University, DeLand and her people.

The groundless rumors have done the University no harm as our people feared would be the result. More students will be here next week than were ever here at any previous opening and the University year beyond doubt is assured the best by long odds it has ever had.

The members of the trustees present at the meeting last week were:

John B. Stetson, president, Philadelphia; S. B. Wright, secretary, DeLand; Hon. H. A. DeLand, Fairport, N. Y.; Rev. David Moore, D. D., Geneva, N. Y.; Rev. R. S. McArthur, D. D., New York, N. Y.; Rev. W. N. Chaudoin, D. D., LaGrange, Fla.; E. O. Painter, DeLand, Fla.; James S. Turner, Levyville, Fla.; H. B. Stevens, DeLand, Fla.; Rev. Thomas J. Sparkman, DeLand, Fla.; Theodore C. Search, Philadelphia; J. T. Clark, DeLand, Fla.; Rev. William H. Stewart, DeLand; Governor William S. Jennings, Tallahassee, Fla.; Frank J. Longdon, DeLand, Mayor; D. E. Fletcher, Jacksonville, Fla.; B. F. Camp, White Springs, Fla.; J. B. Law, DeLand; E. B. Solomon, Dayton, Ohio. The only trustees represented by proxy were E. B. Moody, Lake City, Arthur G. Hamlin, DeLand and Byron E. Huntley, Batavia, N. Y.



While the electric motor is rapidly replacing all other methods of power transmission and distribution, due to its greater economy, electric power when used as a source of light is still at a disadvantage regarding economy, says Charles P. Steinmetz in the Electrical World and Engineer. That is, as a rule, electric power is more expensive than gas or kerosene, and the extensive use of electric light is due rather to its greater convenience, reliability and cleanliness than to its economy. This follows from the fact that the efficiency of producing light from electric power is extremely low, below 10 per cent in the most efficient carbon arc lamp and something like 3 per cent in the incandescent lamp and the Nernst lamp. It is obvious, then, that if the efficiency of light production could be raised to figures even half as high as that of power production the electric light would sweep every other illuminant out of existence by its greater economy.

Possibilities of the Future.

In addressing a public meeting in Schenectady, N. Y., Professor C. P. Steinmetz spoke on the "Future Possibilities of Electricity" and said that the success of wireless telegraphy would in the future prevent any one from being completely isolated and that by its means arctic explorers would be able to communicate with civilization and thus prevent any more expeditions being lost and perishing. It would also be generally used in war, so that an opposing force could not cut wires and thus cut off communication. He added that the tele-

phone is yet in its infancy and that within half a generation it will be possible for Americans to talk with friends in Europe, as a transatlantic telephone is only a question of a few years.

Electrical Water Finder.

Electricity has put the witch hazel wands and other methods of determining the presence of water under ground out of business, says a Washington dispatch to the Kansas City Star. No longer will the man with his divining rod walk about the field waiting for the twig to incline toward the subterranean streams. Experts have patented a little electrical device which is more reliable than the witch hazel wands. When its needle begins to show vibrations, it can be stated positively that there is water beneath.

Telegraphy in Persia.

The telegraph lines in Persia are "famed" by one family, the head of which is Mukhler-ed-Dowlah, who pays the government about \$30,000 a year for the exclusive privilege. The telephone service is owned by a company of Russians and Belgians, the Societe Anonyme de Chemin de Fers et Tramways en Perse.

New Niagara Enterprise.

From Canada the news comes that the Mackenzie-Pellatt-Nicholls syndicate will pay \$15,000 a year for the privilege of developing electric power at Niagara, with an additional fee per horsepower, amounting in all to \$30,000 per 125,000 horsepower.

When Ballooning Began.

Balloons were used millions of years before man invented them, says Dr. Dallinger. Late studies have shown that the long glistening threads of gossamer seen in fields on early autumn days are due to spiderlings, whose first silk is woven into balloon baskets in which they float away. They cut or extend the threads trailing from these balloons as the pressure of the atmosphere may dictate.

AN INTERESTING FEAST

Men Dine on Horseback In a New York Ballroom.

OATS KEPT THE STEEDS QUIET.

Great Apartment in Sherry's Transformed Into a Sylvan Scene For C. K. G. Billings' Dinner to Thirty-three Guests—Courses Served on Tables Attached to Saddles.

Thirty-three blooded saddle horses paved the floor of the grand ballroom of Sherry's, in New York, the other night. Ranged in horseshoe formation in the splendid room thirty-three men dined astride of fancy horseflesh, says the New York World.

The dinner was given by C. F. Billings in celebration of his election as president of the Equestrian club, and by it the millionaire horse owner wins the social laurels that are reserved for those who give society a new sensation.

This horseback dinner in a second story in the Sherry ballroom is the unique affair of the season, casting into the shade all the "monkey dinners" and other efforts at novelty in the way of entertainment with which society has tried to amuse itself.

At midnight the news that the dinner was taking place at Sherry's became known. It had been expected that the scene would be in Mr. Billings' new stables. Every effort had been made to keep it secret. It was the ambition of Mr. Billings to give his clubmates the most memorable dinner that had yet been eaten, and he did it.

The thirty-three horses were taken into Sherry's in such a manner as to attract the least attention. Brought two at a time from a fashionable riding academy, they were placed upon the passenger elevator on the Forty-fourth street side, hoisted to the second story and tethered in the ballroom. Then the preparations began. Each horse was equipped with a white quilted saddle and bridle, martingale and shoulder hangings in gold and white. Each guest was designated to his place by his name lettered in gold on the cantle of a saddle. In the center of the horseshoe formed by the animals was a mound of green, surmounted by a mass of flowers. The grassy sides sloped off into a lawn, which spread to the horses' fore feet.

The astonished diners beheld a scene of rural beauty. The room had been transformed by the use of scenery, fountains, growing field flowers and real grass into a bit of open country.

Beside each horse was a satin upholstered mounting box, from which the diner in the saddle was served. A board fastened athwart the pommel of the saddle served as a table, and that the steeds would not curvet or prance or shy and so spill gravy or salad a liveried groom stood at each horse's head.

Meeting at the apartments of Mr. Billings in the Netherlands, the thirty-three guests were driven to Sherry's and seated at a previously prepared banquet board on the ground floor. Here a first course of soup was served. Then Mr. Billings rose and expressed his sorrow that he was unable to entertain his clubmates at a novel dinner, as he had intended to. He blamed the newspapers for spoiling his surprise by telling the story of the horseback dinner he had planned to take place at his new stables on Washington heights.

"I've been forced to call the affair off," he said. Then he proposed that the party have the remainder of the dinner in the ballroom, where they would enjoy greater privacy.

That there was surprise when the guests beheld the array of horses is expressing it mildly. While they wondered Mr. Billings gloved with pleasure. The equestrian guests entered fully into the spirit of the affair, and soon the first banquet in the saddle was in full swing.

And while the guests ate so did the horses. While the courses were being served from the mounting blocks to dishes which were secured in holders on the saddle tables the horses munched oats from individual satin covered mangers.

Twelve courses were served; then the tables were removed from the pommels and the guests lounged over their cigars in the padded saddles. Speeches followed, mostly laudatory of Mr. Billings. At midnight the diners were still in the saddle.

The Equestrian club elects a president every two months. Former Mayor Grant was the previous president. When a new president is elected, he must give a dinner, and there is an ambition on the part of each newly elected president to provide a more novel affair than that given by his predecessor.

Surely Mr. Billings has set a mark that will be hard to beat!

Appendicitis From Glass.

A startling theory has been advanced that appendicitis may be induced by drinking medicine or water that has stood some time in a glass vessel, says the London correspondent of the New York World. This theory is a sequel to the recent discovery that glass is not insoluble, as has been believed. An English medical journal has proved by observation and experiment that pure water left in a glass bottle for some time will be found to contain a small percentage of alkali and a slight deposit of silica.

Japanese Mothers' Congress.

It is expected that a congress of mothers will soon be organized in Japan, and some of the pamphlets issued by the American mothers already been translated into Japanese.